

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 01425 260439Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12 /094 W

-----117187 260446Z /14

P R 250945Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6566

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, OAU, AO, CG, RW

SUBJECT: ANGOLA/ZAIRE: ZAIRIAN ROVING AMBASSADOR VISITS
KIGALI

1. PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S ROVING AMBASSADOR MARCEL LENGEMA ARRIVED IN KIGALI AUGUST 22 BEARING A PERSONAL MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA FROM MOBUTU. FOLLOWING HALF-HOUR INTERVIEW WITH HABYRIMANA LENGEMA HELD A LENGTHY PRESS/RADIO INTERVIEW, LATER BROADCAST ON RADIO KIGALI. HE DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF HIS MESSAGE OR THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH HABYARIMANA. HOWEVER, PRESSED BY REPORTERS, HE DESCRIBED AT SOME LENGTH RECENT STEPS TOWARD NORMALIZATION BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE, JUST THEN CULMINATING IN NETO'S VISIT TO KINSHASA.

2. AMONG OTHER ASPECTS OF NORMALIZATION PROGRAM, LENGEMA MENTIONED THAT VERIFICATION COMMITTEE WAS BEING SET UP UNDER OAU AUSPICES, "CHARGED WITH KEEPING TRACK OF REFUGEE ACTIVITIES." HE ACKNOWLEDGED
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PAGE 02 KIGALI 01425 260439Z

THAT THERE WERE STILL SECURITY PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT HE SAID THAT FROM NOW ON, "IF A PROBLEM OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER ARISES, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH IT BY MEANS OF DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN LUANDA AND KINSHASA."

3. LENGEMA WAS ASKED WHETHER NORMALIZATION WOULD HAVE

AN IMPACT ON GREAT POWER RELATIONS. SOMEWHAT AMUSED, LENGEMA REPLIED THAT ZAIRE WASN'T MUCH INTERESTED IN EAST-WEST RIVALRIES, BUT HE WAS SURE THAT NORMALIZATION WOULD HAVE VERY FAVORABLE IMPACT ON RELATIONS WITHIN CENTRAL AFRICA AND THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT.

4. LENGEMA DEPARTED THE FOLLOWING MORNING FOR DAR ES SALAAM, WHERE HE WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE.

5. COMMENT: WE ASSUME LENGEMA VISIT WAS RELATED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VERIFICATION COMMITTEE, BUT WE HAVE NO DIRECT CONFIRMATION. TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC WORD ABOUT EVENTUAL COMPOSITION THAT COMMITTEE.

CRIGLER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 25 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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